

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BBAA
School Board First Read: May 20, 2015 School Board June 17, 2015 - Request for Public Hearing School Board (Public Hearing): August 19, 2015 School Board Second Read/Adoption: October 7, 2015 Policy Committee Reviewed: 4/13/16, 4/19/17, 4/11/18, 5/6/20 – No Change Policy Committee Review: April 2, 2021 School Board First Read/2 nd Read/Adoption: 4/7/21 & 4/21/21 School Board Annual Review: April 6, 2022 Policy Committee Review: 9/8/22, 10/13/22, & 11/10/22 School Board First Read: December 7, 2022 School Board Second Read Adoption: December 21, 2022	Page 1 of 2 Category: Recommended

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

The authority of individual Oyster River Cooperative School Board members is limited to participating in actions taken by the School Board as a whole when legally in session. School Board members shall not assume responsibilities of administrators or other staff members. The School Board or staff shall not be bound in any way by any action taken or statement made by any individual School Board member or group of School Board members except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific instructions and official action taken by the School Board consistent with policies, BDF, and BBAB.

Delegation

A Board member may be delegated authority by the Board to take action outside a proper Board meeting only as one of the following: 1) an officer of the Board, 2) a member of a Board subcommittee, 3) a member of an advisory committee. 4) a Board Liaison to another committee or organization, or 5) for a specific task. Except for officers, all other delegations shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board and approved by proper vote of the Board.

Subcommittees:

The Board may form subcommittees from its own membership to facilitate the work of the Board. Subcommittees may be standing committees that serve continuously for a specific topic, or they may be special or ad hoc committees that serve for a specific task and are then dissolved. Such subcommittees will be comprised of up to three Board members. All Board subcommittees are subservient to the Board as a whole and will have study and review functions as assigned to them by proper motion of the Board. Subcommittees will report their findings and recommendations to the full Board which will take action as a whole. Subcommittees may also take action that have been previously authorized by the full Board or are inherent in their Board approved charge. It is not the intent of any sub-committee to ever have the authority to work outside or instead of the authority of the full Board. The Board retains the right to dissolve a subcommittee at any time.

The standing committees of the ORCSD School Board are Negotiations, Policy and Finance.

All Board subcommittees are themselves public bodies under the Right-to-Know law and must comply fully with that law and all related policies equally as the Board itself.

Liaison

Board members may serve as Board liaison to other committees or organizations, both school and community based, for the purpose of reciprocal communication and reporting back to the Board. The number of Board members delegated to a committee may never equal a quorum of the Board. Public access to the meetings and records of such committees or organizations is determined by how the Right-to-Know law applies to that committee or organization. Communications and reports involving the liaison with the Board shall be consistent with the Right-to-Know law and all related policies.

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Specific Task

An individual Board member may occasionally be delegated by the Board to perform a specific task. The motion to delegate a task to a Board member must include detailed instructions and be for a specific and limited time so that administrators, staff, other Board members and the public are fully aware of when a Board member is performing a task. If an original timeline is not met no new motion will be required but the Board member so tasked must keep the Board informed. All communications or actions related to the delegated task involving any other Board member must be at a proper Board meeting. A delegated task must not be used to circumvent the spirit of the Right-to-Know law.

This policy affects public access to the Board and the public's Right to Know. To protect that right, this policy requires a public hearing before it may be revised. Further, this policy may not be suspended except by a two-thirds vote at a public meeting. The Board must always fully comply with the letter and spirit of the Right-to-Know law that may not be suspended. This policy will be reviewed by the Board annually.

Cross References:

Policy BBAB – Selection of Officers
Policy BDF – Advisory Committees to the Board

Legal references:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public
RSA 91-A:2-a, Communication Outside Meetings
N.H. Code of Administrative Rules-Section Ed. 303.01, Substantive Duties of School Boards